

REMARKS

The amendment is in response to the office action mailed May 22, 2003.

The objections to claims 1,4,5 and 9 have been obviated by amendments to claims 1 and 9 and cancellation of claims 4 and 5. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections is requested.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudspeth in view of Renner is traversed. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more clearly define the scope of the invention and claims 3, 4 and 5 canceled. The cited art clearly does not render obvious the present invention.

Hudspeth discloses a camera adapted to receive a film container having a dark slide 34 and a plurality of film units 32. The dark slide 34 is "sandwiched between the uppermost one of the originally packaged film units 32 and the underside of the top wall 16. The principle function of the dark slide, of course, is to act as a closure for exposure window 26 ..." (Col. 4, lines 14-24).

"the dark slide 34 carries an elongated strip of a magnetic recording medium---- in a position such that as the dark slide is ejected from the camera, the strip of magnetic recording medium passes under a magnetic read head 66" (Figs. 1-3, Col. 5, lines 38-46).

The invention defined by claim 1 is nonobvious over Hudspeth and Renner for the following reasons:

1. The dark slide of Hudspeth is located at the top of the film units not at the bottom of a plurality of sheet media as defined by claim 1.

2. Consequently, the dark slide is removed first and then the film units are removed. This is the opposite of the claim 1 system where the plurality of sheet media are all removed from the cartridge while the sheet carrying the r.f.i.d. transponder is still in the tray after removal of all of the sheet media.

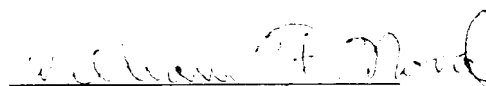
3. The magnetic recording strip of Hudspeth is read by a magnetic head as the dark slide is removed from the film container. Once removed, there is no way further information relating to the sheet media can be recorded as in the r.f.i.d. system of the claimed invention. As defined in claim 1, the r.f.i.d. transponder is positioned at the bottom of the tray beneath the plurality

of sheet media and is always available to receive or transmit digital data while sheet media are removed from the tray.

Clearly, the claims in the application are novel and nonobvious over the cited references and should be allowed.

Speedy allowance is therefore solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William F. Noval", is written over a horizontal line.

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